

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-11 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 MC-02

ARA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 /116 W

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R 161335Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3651

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0098

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, AG, OAU

SUBJECT: ALGERIA AND ANGOLA: CNASHING OF TEETH BUT LETTING IT
SLIDE

1. SUMMARY: WHILE ALGERIA REMAINS SOLIDLY BEHIND MPLA
IN MEDIA RHETORIC AND IN FACILITATING SOVIET AIRLIFT,
REGIME ATTENTION AND GENUINE CONCERN APPEAR LACKING.
SAHARA EVENTS PREOCCUPYING ALGERIANS ALMOST TO EXCLUSION
OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE IS NO DOUBT WHERE ALGERIAN SYMPATHIES LIE IN
ANGOLAN IMBROGLIO. PREVIOUS SUPPLY OF MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO MPLA, ALLOWING SOVIET ANGOLAN AIRLIFT TO
TRANSIT ALGERIA ENROUTE, OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN MPLA
SPOKESMEN IN ALGIERS, AND PRESS PLAY OF EVENTS IN ANGOLA
AND AT OAU SUMMIT ARE CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF ALGERIAN POLICY
IN THIS RESPECT. ALGERIAN IDEOLOGICAL BAGGAGE AND CURRENT
VIEW OF IMPERIALIST OBJECTIVES IN AFRICA MAKE

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ALGERIAN MPLA SUPPORT FOREORDAINED.

3. ALGERIAN MORAL AND VERBAL SUPPORT CONTINUES. INITIAL ALGERIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF OAU SUMMIT REPORTED "FAVORABLE CURRENT" FOR MPLA. FOLLOWING SUMMIT BREAKUP, PRESS RAISED VITRIOL LEVEL BY:

A. ATTACKING MODERATES AS SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORTERS, IMPERIALIST BASTIONS, AND TRUE ENEMIES OF AFRICAN PEOPLE; SENEGAL, ZAIRE, AND MOROCCO SIGNLED OUT BY NAME;

B. ATTRIBUTING FAILURE OF MPLA TO WIN MAJORITY SUPPORT TO IMPERIALIST PRESSURE, CITING SPECIFICALLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUEFLE'S AFRICAN TOUR AND WESTERN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES LOBBYING "EN PERMANENCE" AT AFRICA HALL (NO MENTION MADE OF SOVIETS OR CUBANS);

C. ALLEGING THAT OAU "FAILURE" AT ADDIS DEMONSTRATES INCAPACITY TO ACT WHICH WILL DEAL HARD BLOW AT ITS PRESTIGE:

D. LINKING ANGOLA TO SPANISH SAHARA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL AS FOCAL POINTS OF "GREAT IMPERIALIST OFFENSEIVE";

E. PRAISING "DISINTERESTED AID" OF USSR, CUBA, YUGOSLAVIA AND OTHER ANTI-IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES.'

4. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE MEDIA VIRULENCE, FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE GIVEN SOVIET AIRLIFT, AND REPORTED HARD-CORE ATTITUDE AT ADDIS (ADDIS 495), WE HAVE IMPRESSION ALGERIANS TAKING BACK SEAT ON THIS ONE AND LEAVING IT TO CUBANS, NIGERIANS, GUINEANS AND OTHERS TO LEAD BATTLE. THEIR RHETORIC HAS PRO-FORMA TONE, THERE ARE ALMOST NO REPORTS OF DIRECT ALGERIAN INVOLVEMENT OR CURRENT MATERIAL SUPPORT, AND ANGOLA IS NOT ON LIPS OF ALGERIANS OR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HERE. NEITHER BOUMEDIENE NOR FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA THOUGHT SUMMIT WORK ATTENDING; ALGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE MINISTER OF COMMERCE YAKER, IS COMPETENT AND IS GOA'S FOREMOST AFRICA HAND (PERHAPS BECAUSE HE SPEAKS ENGLISH) BUT IF ALGERIANS WERE SERIOUS ABOUT AFFECTING OUTCOME THEY WOULD HAVE SENT BOUTEFLIKA.

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5. WE BELIEVE ALGERIANS FOCUSING REVOLUTIONARY, ANTI-IMPERIALIST, AND ANTI-COLONIALIST ENERGY ON SAHARA AND HAVE ONLY MORAL AND VERBAL SUPPORT LEFT FOR ANGOLA. WE SUGGEST THAT ALGERIAN ATTENTION BEING FOCUSED ELSEWHERE MAY HAVE HELPED CONTRIBUTE TO MODERATES HOLDING FAST AT ADDIS; DESPITE EXPRESSED DISTASTE OF OTHER AFRICANS FOR ALGERIAN SPOILING TACTICS, GOA'S TRACK RECORD, WHEN IT MAKES EFFORT, IS PRETTY GOOD.

6. WE DO NOT HAVE IMPRESSION HERE THAT ALGERIA AS
CAVALIER ABOUT OAU AS REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO YAKER
IN ADDIS 495 SUGGESTS. ALGERIANS HAVE IN PAST
COUNTED ON OAU, AND ALGERIAN ABILITY MANIPULATE IT, AS
ONE OF SUPPORTS FOR ITS NONALIGNED PREEMINENCE. ALGERIAN
ATTITUDE, AND POSSIBLY ELABORATION OF WHAT YAKER MEANT,
PROBABLY BEST REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DIALY
JANUARY 14 EDITORIAL FORECASTING DEMISE OF REGIMES
TIED TO IMPERIALISTS -- I.E. MODERATES -- AND
EMERGENCE OF NEW OAU UNITED AGAINST IMPERIALISM.PARKER

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